

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 8940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG UN US

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 8838

1. FRG CHARGE VON KROSIGK TELEPHONED AFTERNOON JULY 28 TO INFORM ME THAT HE HAD MET WITH FONMIN KIFLE WODAO MORNING OF JULY 28 ON BEHALF CORE GROUP TO DISCUSS KOREA AND LEAVE AIDE-MEMOIRE (PARA 3 REFTEL) WITH HIM. VON KROSIGK CHARACTERIZED MEETING AS "POSITIVE" AND SAID KIFLE APPEARED TO FAMILIAR WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSALS OF JULY 22.

2. SPECIFICALLY, ACCORDING VON KROSIGK, KIFLE REGRETTED THAT ISSUE HAD STILL NOT BEEN RESOLVED. ETHIOPIA HAD NO IDEA WHAT KIND OF SOLUTION WOULD BE RIGHT FOR EVERYONE CONCERNED, BUT DID BELIEVE SOLUTION WAS UP TO KOREAN PEOPLE. ETHIOPIA WOULD IN FACT URGE BOTH KOREAS TO TALK OUT THE MATTER BETWEEN THEMSELVES. NORTH KOREA'S EFFORTS TO EXCLUDE SOUTH KOREA FROM DISCUSSIONS ABOUT KOREAN PENINSUAL ARE NOT THE RIGHT WAY.

3. COMMENT: AS DEPT WILL RECOGNIZE, KIFLE'S REPORTED RESPONSE IS CONSIDERABLE SWITCH FROM EARLIER EPMG POSITION
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OF HEWING CLOSE TO NON-ALIGNED LINE. ON THE SURVACE, IT

IS CERTAINLY ENCOURAGING, BUT WE PREFER RESERVE JUDGMENT
FOR TIME BEING RE PRACTICAL EFFECTS OF KIFLE'S STATEMENTS,
PARTICULARLY IMPLICATIONS THAT EPMG MIGHT BE WILLING TRY
AND PERSUADE NORTH KOREANS SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH ROK
AND THAT EPMG MIGHT DESERT NON-ALIGNEDS EVEN IF GOING
GOT ROUGH. KIFLE TOLD VON KROSIKG HE WILL MEET WITH ROK
AMBASSADOR PERHAPS EARLY NEXT WEEK, AND THIS SHOULD GIVE
US BETTER FEEL FOR EPMG'S POSITION. MEANWHILE, WE SHALL
BE LOOKING FOR OUR OWN OPPORTUNITIES TO PROBE FURTHER.
IF DEPT OR USUN PICK UP ANY INDEPENDENT REFLECTION OF
KIFLE'S RESPONSE TO VON KROSIKG'S DEMARCHE, WE SHOULD,
OF COURSE, BE INTERESTED.

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